

DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT FOR PRESS CONFERENCE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I'M DELIGHTED TO BE BACK IN PAKISTAN AND HAPPY TO TALK ABOUT MY VISIT OVER THE LAST TWO DAYS. I HAVE RENEWED FRIENDSHIPS WITH BOTH PRIME MINISTER JUNEJO AND PRESIDENT ZIA AND EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE CURRENT REGIONAL SITUATION, PERCEPTIONS ON AFGHANISTAN, AND ESPECIALLY MY IMPRESSIONS FROM MY STOPS IN CHINA AND INDIA. I HAVE ALSO HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER YAQUB KHAN AND CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE, GENERAL RAHIM UDDIN KHAN. I WAS VERY PROUD TO PRESIDE, ALONG WITH (EITHER PM JUNEJO OR DEFENSE SECRETAR ZAIDI) OVER THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE PAKISTAN-U.S. CONSULTATIVE GROUP, A FORUM THAT MEETS TWICE A YEAR TO DISCUSS SECURITY ASSISTANCE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP. CENTRAL TO THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP PLENARY SESSION YESTERDAY WERE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SCOPE AND CONCEPT OF THE NEW SIX-YEAR SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WE HAVE PLEDGED FOR PAKISTAN BEGINNING NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

THREE YEARS AGO I VISITED PESHAWAR, THE KHYBER PASS, AND THE FLIGHT LINE AT SARGODHA AIR BASE. TODAY I WAS PRIVILEGED TO VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF LAHORE, THE CULTURAL CENTER OF PAKISTAN, AND I RECEIVED A TOUR OF THE _____ MILITARY UNIT/INSTALLATION CONDUCTED BY ITS COMMANDER, _____.

WHAT ARE YOUR QUESTIONS?

③-#10